Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

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R 241030 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6529
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

CONFIDENTIAL FORT LAMY 0408

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR CD

SUBJECT: TOMBALBAYE WHACKS IMPERIALIST PLOTTERS

1. EARLY THIS MONTH CHADIAN POLICE ARRESTED FRENCH CITIZEN MARCEL LALLIA RPT LALLIA AT FORT LAMY WHERE HE ARRIVED AS HITCHHIKER ON TRUCK FROM MAROUA WHEN AIR CAMEROUN FLIGHT UNABLE TO LAND AT MAROUA AND DIVERTED TO FORT LAMY DUE TO PROTRACTED HARMATTAN CONDITIONS. LALLIA WAS EXPELLED IN 1964 FROM CHAD WHERE HE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL COTTON ENTREPRENEUR SINCE 1945 ON CHARGES OF PROFITEERING. CUSTOMS INSPECTION REVEALED HIS BRIEFCASE CONTAINED LARGE QUANTITY OF DOCUMENTS WHICH EDITORIALS OVER TEN- DAY PERIOD IN OFFICIAL INFOTCHAD ALLEGE CONNECT LALLIA WITH FOCCART RPT FOCCART, FROLINAT, UNNAMED CHADIAN DIPLOMATS AND, MOST RECENTLY, WITH CATHOLIC CLERGY IN CHAD. LAST NIGHT RADIO CHAD CARRIED STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE THAT CATHOLIC CHURCH SUPPORT OF THIS SUBVERSIVE, IMPERIALIST LACKEY AND "TCHADOPHOBE" IS PROVEN BY FACT CONGREGATIONS LAST SUNDAY WERE ASKED TO PRAY FOR LALLIA. THIS COMES AT END OF THREE DAYS OF FLORID EDITORIALS CONDEMNING CLERGY AS SERVANTS OF COLONIZERS. AS HYPOCRITES WHO PREACH CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE OF LOVE TO BLACKS BUT IN REALITY MOULD THEM TO PURPOSES OF EXPLOITERS LIKE LALLIA. CATHOLIC CLERGY CONFIDENTIAL

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IS ALSO CHARGED WITH INTRODUCING HOMOSEXUALITY TO CHAD. RADIO CHAD NOTES THAT CHURCH OFFICIALS HAVE NOT RPT NOT REPLIED YET TO THESE CHARGES.

- 2. COMMENT: WHAT EXACTLY WERE CONTENTS OF LALLIA'S NOW RPT NOW FAMOUS BULGING BRIEFCASE REMAINS SUBJECT FOR MUCH SPECULATION IN FORT LAMY. WE KNOW THAT PHOTOCOPIES OF CONTENTS WERE CARRIED TO PARIS BY SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL EMISSARY WITH REQUEST FOR AUTHORITATIVE GOF RPT GOF EXPLANATION. EMISSARY WILL NOT RPT NOT RETURN UNTIL EARLY NEXT WEEK. OUR SOURCES INDICATE VARIOUSLY THAT THERE WERE, INTER ALIA RPT INTER ALIA, SIGNED LETTERS FROM JACQUES FOCCART TO LALLIA, CHRISTMAS CARD FROM JESUIT ARCHBISHOP PAUL DELMAIS TO LALLIA, LETTERS BETWEEN LALLIA AND CERTAIN CHADIAN DIPLOMATS AND BETWEEN LALLIA AND FROLINAT OFFICIALS. LALLIA HAS BUSINESS INTERESTS IN CAMEROON AND CAR RPT CAR BUT IS NOT RPT NOT KNOWN TO HAVE ENTERED CHAD SINCE HIS 1964 DEPORTATION. PLAUSIBLE REASON GIVEN BY TWO GOOD SOURCES FOR HIS OTHERWISE INEXPLICABLE DECISION TO VISIT FORT LAMY AND FOR CARRYING SUCH DAMAGING DOCUMENTATION IS THAT HE HAD MADE PRIOR ARRANGEMENT TO SEE TOMBALBAYE TO WARN HIM OF FRENCH PLOT TO OVERTHROW HIM AND THAT TOMBALBAYE DOUBLE- CROSSED HIM. THIS POSSIBLE EXPLANATION STRENGTHENED BY FURTHER RELIABLE REPORT LALLIA CIRCULATED FREELY IN FORT LAMY FOR THREE OR FOUR DAYS BEFORE ARREST.
- 3. CHIEF REASON FOR SILENCE OF CATHOLIC HIERARCHY IS UNDOUBTEDLY ROUTINE ABSENCE FROM CHAD OF ARCHBISHOP DELMAIS IN ITALY AND FRANCE FOR PAST SIX WEEKS. WHEN HE LEFT HE TOLD ME HE EXPECTED RETURN ABOUT FIRST WEEK OF APRIL.
- 4. FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAS SO FAR TAKEN MATTER CALMLY, BEING USED TO UPS AND DOWNS IN FRANCO- CHADIAN RELATIONS. HE TELLS ME THAT WHILE HE FINDS CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS "DISQUIETING" HE IS NOT RPT NOT OVERLY CONCERNED "BECAUSE PARIS IS STILL SMILING."
- 5. AT THIS POINT WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE THAT TOMBALBAYE HAS SEIZED ON ANOTHER THIN REED OF WHICH HE WILL MAKE MAXIMUM USE FOR SHORT TIME AS MEANS OF BURNISHING HIS NEW, MORE THAN EVER ANTI- IMPERIALIST, NON- ALIGNED IMAGE AT HOME AND ABROAD. WE ENTIRELY DISCOUNT CREDIBILITY OF ANY FRANCO- VATICAN- FROLINAT PLOT AGAINST HIM AND FIND IT UNLIKELY TOMBALBAYE HIMSELF PUTS CONFIDENTIAL

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ANY CREDIT IN IT.

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To: AF BANGUI LONDON **PARIS**

SECSTATE WASHDC

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